

Ser. No. 10/713,641

Remarks

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 17, and 19 were rejected. Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 16, and 18 were merely objected to and claims 12-15 and 20-22 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 1, 9, 16, and 18 are amended, and no claims are added. No new matter is presented.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 18 were objected to for enumerated informalities. By the foregoing amendment, these have been corrected as helpfully proposed by the examiner.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of a telephonic interview held November 9, 2005 between the undersigned and Examiner C. Verdier. The rejections of claims 1 and 9 based upon Honda et al. were discussed. The undersigned noted that the asserted Honda et al. plenum 32 would not satisfy the claimed plenum because the identified ports were not, respectively, to and from that plenum but only to that plenum. The undersigned also reiterated the previously argued lack of structural connection at the apparent O-ring joints. The examiner noted the possibility of identifying a plenum inboard of 30 in a further action. Possible amendment of claims 1 and 9 to identify mounting at the joints was discussed. No agreement was reached.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in as-filed claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 12-15, and 20-22.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 17 and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by Honda et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,987. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to identify a bleed plenum and respective ports to and from that plenum. Honda et al. neither discloses nor suggests such a plenum.

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In the prior Office action, the asserted claimed structural case was referenced by Honda et al. numerals 40 and 42 and the aft and fore joints marked with letters E and F. These letters point to areas where the Honda et al. housing 42 is sealed to an adjacent shroud ring but not secured thereto (see the beginning of paragraph 0021/23 of the application/publication). This lack of securing was believed to not satisfy the claimed structural role. Amended claims 1 and 9 now further identify "securing" which has already been addressed in various dependent claims (e.g., claim 16 which further specifies bolted joints). Honda et al. does not disclose or suggest such securing.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chlus U.S. Patent 6,802,691 in view of Honda et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The rejection is believed overcome for the same reasons as is the 102(b) rejection. The examiner identified element 20 of Chlus as the structural case. However, there is no suggestion for the claimed bleed plenum.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. in view of Malmborg U.S. PGPub. 2005/0008486. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Malmborg has apparently cited for "having a compressor with a structural case 76 that carries fan exit guide vanes 77..." Office action, page 8. It is not clear whether this is intended to replace the structural case of Honda et al. as it is differently positioned. It is clear from FIG. 2 of Malmborg that the element having the valve ports (above the reference numeral 84) is in floating relation to the shroud sealed by O-rings as is Honda et al. Accordingly, neither Malmborg, Honda et al., nor their combination suggest the claimed bleed plenum.

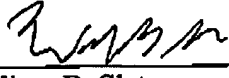
Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. in view of Chlus and further in view of Malmborg. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office action included a repeated discussion of Malmborg. As noted above, however, even if the combination were proper it fails to suggest the claimed bleed plenum.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed this 9th day of November, 2005 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.


Antoinette Sullo

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